

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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O P 201605Z MAY 77 ZFF-4
FM USDEL SECRETARY IN GENEVA
TO AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTO 4127

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS), PFOR, UN, MO, US
SUBJ: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH WALDHEIM: SAHARA PROBLEM

1. DURING WORKING BREAKFAST MAY 19 WITH THE SECRETARY,
UN SECY GENERAL WALDHEIM SAID HE WANTED TO BRING THE
SECRETARY UP TO DATE ON THE FOLLOWING RECENT DEVELOPMENTS
WITH RESPECT TO THE SAHARA AND TO SEEK HIS ASSISTANCE.

2. WALDHEIM SAID THAT WHEN HE WAS RECENTLY IN SAUDI ARABIA,
HE HAD MET WITH ALGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTEFLIKA, WHO
HAD ASKED FOR HIS HELP IN FINDING A FACE-SAVING FORMULA FOR
ALGIERS. SUBSEQUENTLY, WHEN HE WAS IN MAPUTO, HE HAD BEEN
APPROACHED BY AN EMISSARY OF BOUMEDIENE'S (PHONETIC SPELLING
SAHNOUN) WITH A FURTHER REQUEST FOR HIS ASSISTANCE.

3. ONE IDEA THATHAD OCCURRED TO HIM, WALDHEIM SAID, WAS THE
AUTONOMY FOR THE SAHARA. WITH BOTH THE OAU AND UN
DIVIDED ON THIS SUBJECT, HOWEVER, KING HASSAN FELT IN
A STRONG POSITION AND WALDHEIM DOUBTED THAT HE WAS
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READY FOR A FACE-SAVING SOLUTION. I HE WAS NEVERTHELESS
IN TOUCH WITH A MOROCCAN REPRESENTATIVE IN GENEVA
TO EXPLORE WHETHER ANY NEW APPROACH TO THIS PROBLEM
WAS POSSIBLE. THE ALGERIANS HOPED FOR A SOLUTION
BEFORE THE AFRICAN SUMMIT IN GABON IN JULY AND WERE
URGING HIM TO VISIT THE AREA. WALDHEIM SAID HE WANTED
FIRST, HOWEVER, TO SEE WHETHER MOROCCO WAS READY FOR

ANY KIND OF FACE-SAVING PROCEDURE SUCH AS, FOR EXAMPLE, A PROCESS OF CONSULTATIONS WITH SAHAROU I LEADERS. HE HAD ALSO DISCUSSED THIS PROBLEM WITH SADR UDDIN AGA KHAN; WHO IS CARRYING OUT CENSUS OF SAHAROU I IN ALGERIA.

4. WALDHEIM SAID THAT BOUMEDIENE'S EMISSARY HAD TOLD HIM THE MOROCCANS WERE MASSING TROOPS ON THE ALGERIAN BORDER. ACCORDING TO SADR UDDIN KHAN, THERE WAS NO DOUBT THE ALGERIANS ARE SUPPORTING THE POLISARIO, AND HE IS CONCERNED ABOUT A POSSIBLE MOROCCAN PREEMPTIVE STRIKE ACROSS THE BORDER AGAINST TINDOUF.

5. THE SECRETARY SAID WE HAVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH HASSAN AND COULD USE OUR GOOD OFFICES IN SUPPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL. WALDHEIM SAID WE COULD TELL HASSAN OF THE APPROACH TO HIM BY BOUMEDIENE'S EMISSARY IN MAPUTO, WHO HAD SAID THAT ALGERIA IS WORRIED ABOUT THE SITUATION AND HAS ASKED THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO TAKE AN INITIATIVE WHICH COULD CONTRIBUTE TO A SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM.

6. WALDHEIM SAID HE WAS CAUTIOUS ABOUT AGAIN INVOLVING HIMSELF IN THE SAHARAN SITUATION AFTER HIS LAST EXPERIENCE. KING HASSAN TAKES THE POSITION THAT THE PROBLEM HAS BEEN SOLVED AND THAT THE SELF-DETERMINATION REQUIREMENT WAS FULFILLED THROUGH HIS CONSULTATION WITH THE SAHAROU I ASSEMBLY. NEITHER SPAIN NOR ALGERIA ACCEPTS THIS, HOWEVER, POINTING OUT THAT HASSAN ONLY CONSULTED A RUMP ASSEMBLY
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CONSISTING OF MOROCCAN STOOGES. THEY DID NOT AGREE THAT THIS FULFILLED MOROCCO'S OBLIGATION UNDER THE MOROCCAN-MAURITANIAN-SPANISH AGREEMENT. WHAT IS NEEDED, WALDHEIM CONCLUDED, IS A FACE-SAVING FORMULA FOR THE ALGERIANS.

7. BEFORE DECIDING HOW TO PROCEED IN SUPPORT OF WALDHEIM'S REQUEST FOR HELP, WE WOULD LIKE RABAT'S ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS. WE WOULD ALSO WELCOME ANY COMMENTS THAT INFO ADDRESSEES MAY HAVE. VANCE

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